The RedBird Word

Vol. 35 November 2001 No. 3

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

In this ISSUE:

Powder Puff [illegible]s girls into shape...

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and Osama bin Laden is a big jerk.

Alton Senior High School
2200 College Ave. Alton, IL 62002

Pushy Broads and Power Trips

REDBIRDWORD

NOVEMBER 2001

... I'll do it tomorrow.

by Alison Hanold
Editor-in-Chief

All teenagers are talented in something. Some are great at music. Some are awesome at football. Some have even mastered the art of video games. There is, however, one talent that all teenagers have in common. This talent is none other than the age old teenage tradition of *procrastination.*

Procrastination, not to be confused with the common practice of some teens of a similar name, is the art of putting off anything and everything that needs to be done until the last minute. For instance, Janey Moo is in an honors English class. In this class, Janey is assigned to write a 15 page paper on antidisestablishmentarianism and how it affects her life. Janey is given three months to write this paper, and must include footnotes and a bibliography.

Now let's consider Janey's situation. She has three honors classes, an after school job, and likes to spend time with her studly football player college boyfriend. The idea of this paper frightens Janey, but she comes up with a very strategic and precise plan to get her paper done efficiently. At 3:15 p.m. every day after school, Janey plans to sit down and write approximately three-sevenths of a page until 3:45 p.m., when she has to leave for work. While driving she will listen to books on tape to bulk up her knowledge of the subject, starting with *Antidisestablishmentarianism and You!* and eventually work her way up to *Antidisestablishmentarianism: Make it Work to Your Advantage.* From now on, all dates with "Stud Muffin" will be to the library. She will no longer watch *Friends* or *Will & Grace* during "Must See TV;" she will study.

Then the distractions come into play. Stud Muffin has a breakdown, sitting an inadequate childhood, and needs a shoulder to cry on. Janey's boss becomes less-than-pleasant and demands that Janey works many more hours during the week, and the biggest problem of all- ROSS IS THE FATHER OF RACHEL'S BABY! So many distractions cause Janey to lose sight of her previous road to success and lead her to a path of bad priorities and procrastination. All of a sudden, the paper is due next week, and all Janey has written is "Antidisestablishmentarianism is-" and the panic sets in. Janey cries rather than works, fearing her inevitable future of flunking out of school and becoming a waitress at Hooters.

We can all learn from Janey's mistakes. Most of us make the same. We shouldn't load our plates so full that there is no room for the possible addition of an extra side dish. As high school students, our main focus should be on school. So next time you have a paper due, a test to study for, or an editorial to write, dump your boyfriend, beg your mom for money, and get cracking!

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Our Mission 2001-2002

"News with a purpose... inform, enlighten, and entertain."

Letters to the Editor

The RedBird Word staff would love to hear your feedback. Please send any comments, questions, complaints, or ideas to Mrs. Brave's room, 401.

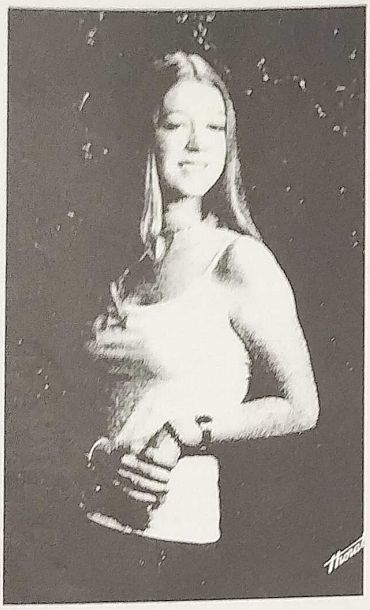
Alton Senior High School
2200 College Ave.
Alton, IL 62002

Cover Designed by Toni Baskin
We love you Jeff Dossett!

Straight From the Bird's Mouth
RedBird Word
November 2001

Mission:Hypocrisy

by Leslie Winters
Senior Editor



Every hour on the hour beginning at 8a.m. the tardy bell rings at Alton High School. For many students trying to make it to class on time, hearing this bell before walking into class is an outrage. They already know what is going to happen; another tardy referral for after school at 3:00 in room 512. I know I have been there, and despised every minute of it. So what really is the purpose of these hated tardy referrals?

Being a senior, I have had many teachers, and everybody knows that some teachers enjoy giving a student that dreaded hour of detention for every tardy after those first two.

The worst teachers are the "sneaky" ones though. You know, the ones that never say anything about a single one of your tardies, but one day give you two detentions! Talk about a double whammy! Now you have to spend an unnecessary two hours on Tuesday and Thursday in Room 512 wishing your teacher told you they counted tardies from the get go.

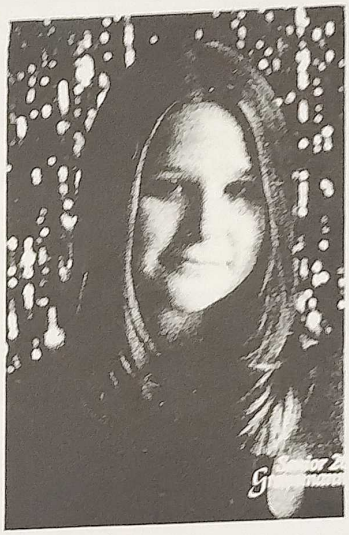
The ultimate punishment for tardiness according to the *Student/Parent Handbook* is a short suspension. This means that eventually you could receive ISD, in-school detention, or an out of school suspension. This is basically saying that because you missed a few minutes in the beginning of class, you now have to miss a whole day or more of necessary education.

Our district mission claims that their mission is to educate students, among other things. How can the district follow their mission when students are not even allowed to go to any classes just for being a few minutes late. So what are the students supposed to think about all these hypocritical punishments?

Basically, a few minutes missed in the beginning of class is nothing compared to a whole class hour missed of learning. At least the student cared enough to show up for class, right? I have been sentenced to that awful day of ISD and I will tell you right now, it accomplished nothing. No matter how hard I try, I still can not make it to class on time. So for the rest of my senior year, I will be forced to serve these tardy punishments without any prevail. Maybe I'll see you in Room 512, too.

Do You Need An Attitude Check?

by Diane Holden
Senior Editor



Throughout my high school career I have noticed every year the students of Alton High get a bigger attitude than the year before. Whether I walk between some student and their friends or accidentally bump into a student and say "Sorry," people still have to get an attitude.

Spending my time at Alton High for the last three years I have seen just about everything there is to see when it comes to someone getting an attitude. For example, when the seniors are trying to get out of the Pit it would be a good idea not to walk slow in front of their 2,000 pound car and call them an inappropriate name. At the same time seniors do not take advantage of your situation.

How about passing period? Could the group of students that like to sit on the stairs please move. When a person gets kicked or walked on do not act surprised and try to start a fight. If any students were meant to sit there would be benches there not stairs.

Do not make things harder for the teachers by having an attitude when entering their class. They have probably put up with students having attitudes all day. When arguing with the teacher everyone's time is being wasted. Class is only 54 minutes long, the teacher should not have to waste any time trying to calm down or discipline students.

When there is a large crowd of people during passing period do not push and shove your way through the crowd like someone on some sort of attitude power trip. Everyone is going to a class and have the same six minutes as everyone else.

No one is more important than anyone else. Having an attitude will earn no one any respect. When stepping out of high school into the real world there will be other people we will all have to listen to. They will not put up with immature attitudes. To quote the character Clint from the movie *Dazed and Confused*, " Don't let your mouth write a check your butt can't cash."

The Real Side of Students

by Kari Oglesby
Back Page Editor

According to an October 2000 nationwide teen character study, high school students have a tendency to lie, cheat and sometimes even show up to class drunk.

Seven in ten students cheated on a test once in the past year, and nearly half of them cheated in school more than once. Perhaps this lack of ethics and morals among teens has peaked seeing as this is the first year that there has been a significant increase in poor moral judgement since 1992.

Ninety-two percent of the 8,600 students surveyed lied to their parents in the past year. Seventy-eight percent said that they had lied to a teacher and more than one in four students said they would lie to get a job. "I know for a fact that many people lie, as I do sometimes myself," said junior Danielle Petras. "Lying should not be a luxury. People should really realize what kind of consequences can come with it," added Petras. When people are dishonest at school and home it leads to other poor choices.

About one in six students said that they had shown up for class drunk at least once in the past year. Sixty-eight percent admitted that they had hit someone because, at that moment, they were angry. Forty-seven percent said that they were capable of getting a gun.

Researchers say that parents, teachers and coaches need to be aware of issues because they have the most significant interactions with students.

The October 2000 nationwide teen character study included students from grades nine to twelve from both public and private schools.

Anthrax Scare at Alton High

by Adam Betz
News Editor

During second hour at Alton High School on October 29, a couple of girls spotted " anthrax" on the third floor of the Main in the girls' rest room. The substance was actually dust cause by water damage on the old plaster walls.

All of the power on the fourth floor had to be shut off to keep the ventilation system from blowing the substance outside into the air. The power going out on the fourth floor was just a bad side effect to shutting off the ventilation system. This was all part of the procedure that the school board is supposed to follow if such an instance occurs.

"I find the whole anthrax situation to be a bit absurd," said student teacher Carolyn Mossman.

The buildings were not evacuated because that goes against the said procedure. They are to close off the area, shut off the vent fans, keep students calm and go on a normal.

They followed all the necessary procedures. The fire department was called, samples were taken to make sure that a mistake was not made and the room was sealed off and cleaned.

"I am glad that it was not anything serious and I can't see why anyone here at Alton High would do such a thing," said principal Philip Robbins.

Where is The Real Issue?

by Nik Kern
Managing Editor

The Telegraph's new teen publication *The Real Issue,* slated to appear November 1, 2001, has been once again rescheduled. The magazine was originally scheduled to appear on news stands October 15. The date was then moved to November 1 due to ime difficulties.

"The movement of the magazine at this point is for the best. t will allow us to make it better and more in depth," said Amy arker, adviser for *The Real Issue.*

The staff has been diligently working to create the November sue. Although some materials will be lost, some will be able transfer. "This is a minor set back, and I guess this is all part the job," said Entertainment Editor Josh Lambie.

The December issue will have things like a spotlight on the ea sport athletes, top movies and music, and an in-depth article out" Fury," a local band from AHS. Be sure to pick up your py of *The Real Issue* on December 10.

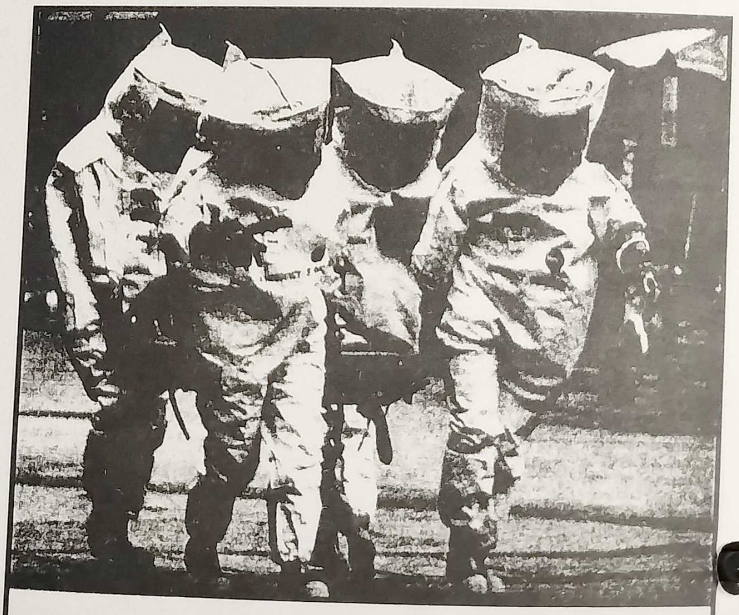


photo by Frances M. Roberts of Newsweek
Medics dressed in Hazmat suits practice removing a victim during a hazardous materials drill.

Facts about "the Fugitive"

By Kenny Ross

Everyone at Alton High will remember where they were and what they were doing when the terrorists attacked the World Trade Center. The attacks will forever be burned into everyone's memory. In the weeks since the attacks Americans have been searching for answers to questions like; Why attack America?, What has America ever done to Osama bin Laden?,and Who are the Taliban and why do they support terrorists?

Osama bin Laden holds many grievences against the United States and other western nations. Bin Laden disagrees with the continuing American policy of supporting the ruling Saud family of Saudi Arabia, who he sees as a conservative elite. He also dislikes having American troops stationed in the Muslim Holy land, which in turn happens to be Saudi Arabia.

Possiably the greatest grievence that bin Laden holds is America's continuing support of the state of Israel. He sees the Israelis as an occupying force that has taken land from the Palentstineans. Bin Laden literally hates the idea of American captialism, labor force equality, drinking of alcohol, and the many freedoms that we Americans enjoy.

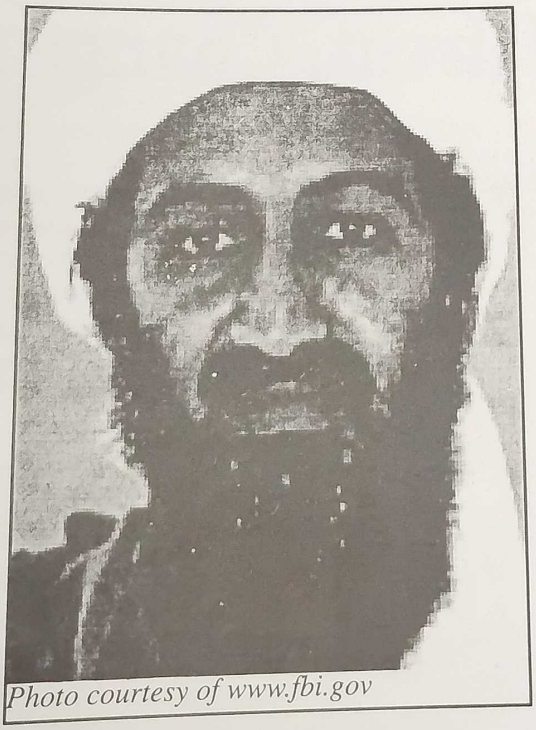


Photo courtesy of www.fbi.gov

The Taliban, an unpopular far right radical relgious group, that is the ruling power in much of Afghanistan. They rule this country with an iron fist, like Stalin in Russia during the 19, and they conquere the opposition by execution. Taliban rule is not recognized by any country in the world, and it is suspected that Osama bin Laden give sthe Taliban large sums of money in exchange for support and land for terrorist camps. This government, if thats what you want to call it, also agrees with the hatred for America, and would like to end American democracy.

As mentioned above the Afghan leaders, people, and terrorist all have a deep seated hatred for America and its customs. Now as we have all seen they will stop at nothing for their quest to end captialism and the good old American way.

Lockheed Martin Wins JSF Contract

By Daniel Lester
Copy Editor

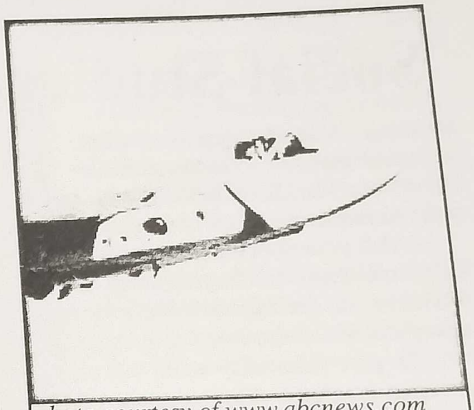


photo courtesy of www.abcnews.com

On Friday October 26, 2001 the United States Department of Defense announced that Lockheed Martin had been awarded the lucrative contract to build the JSF. The JSF, Joint Strike Fighter, is America's newest addition to the military fighter aircraft and will be the workhorse of the military well into the 21st century. This contract,worth 200 billion, was a five year battle between Chicago based Boeing and Bethesda, MD based Lockheed Martin.

Lockheed Martin used the most of the 660 million dollars the federal government awarded to each company for research and development to come up with the winning design. The Department of Defense had strict features that were required of each contractor to incoperate into their aircraft. These features included vertical take-off, fast take-off from a short distance, and ability to land in a short distance.

The vice president of Lockheed Martin, Dane Hancock, ha this to say about the victory " One word describes how I feel toda and that word is estatic." The aeronautics division of Lockhe Martin announced that the jets were going to be built in Fort Wor TX. "Winning this contract is a shot into the arm of Fort Wo and it will open up thousands of jobs to our citizens" said Ma Kenneth Barr when asked for a reaction to the announcement.

As for Boeing this loss could not come at a worse time fo number two aircraft company in the world. With the slowdov recent air travel the demand for commercial aircraft has com grinding halt, and that has caused Boeing to layoff 30,000 wo in the coming months. The company was really hoping tha contract would spark their workforce and create more jobs.

President and CEO of Boeing Phil Condit said "The g ments decsion is a real disappointment to us, but we will m to our other projects underway without hesitation."

While all this makes the next years look dismal for the U.S. governemnt may be able to help them. Anita Ate defense analyst, has said "Neither company has the ability this aircraft by themselves." With three thousand aircraft the U.S. government has noticed this and is looking into pect of subdividing the contract, so as to allow Boeing a p construction of the aircraft.

RedBird Word

Features

November 2001

Social Studies Club Undergoes Growth Spurt

by Diane Holden and Laura Griffith
Senior Editor Features Editor

Social Studies Club is a volunteer organization that participates in numerous hours of services to the community.

This year, the club plans on donating Toys for Tots, adopting kids from Oasis and buying them Christmas presents, hosting a food drive for the Salvation Army Homeless Shelter and donating turkey dinners to the families at Oasis.

In past years only about a dozen people attended the club meetings regularly. This year, the club's size has increased dramatically. Thirty-three people joined the club this year.

"We're excited that so many people have decided to participate," said Club Director Mrs. Capps. "We hope that they maintain interest all year."

The club does not have officers. It has been tried in the past, and it never seemed to be necessary. Members come when they please and sign up to be volunteers. Mrs. Capps and Mr. Day coordinate the group activities.

At the end of each year, a scholarship is awarded to a senior who has belonged to the club for two years and who has donated a numerous amount of hours as a volunteer. These volunteer hours can also count for required community service hours for National Honor Society.

The first two projects that the Social Studies Club will be working on are coming up in November. On the 10th, the club will be decorating a tree for The Celebration Of Christmas in Rock Springs Park. On the 24th, volunteers will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army.

Locks Of Love: Get a Haircut, Change A Life

by Laura Griffith
Features Editor

Locks of Love is a non-profit organization that helps children under 18 years old who have lost their hair because of a medical condition.

It was organized in 1997 and has helped over 500 children throughout the United States during the first year alone. Many who donate their hair are often children themselves, so it gives kids a chance to help kids.

These children suffer from an illness called Alopecia areata. It is recognized by defined round or oval patches of hair loss that usually occur in people under 25. It is common, occurring about 17.2 times for every 100,000 people.

There are guidelines for people who want to donate their hair. Hair must be at least ten inches long. If the hair is curly, it must be at least ten inches when it is stretched out. It must not be swept from the floor. It must not be chemically damaged.

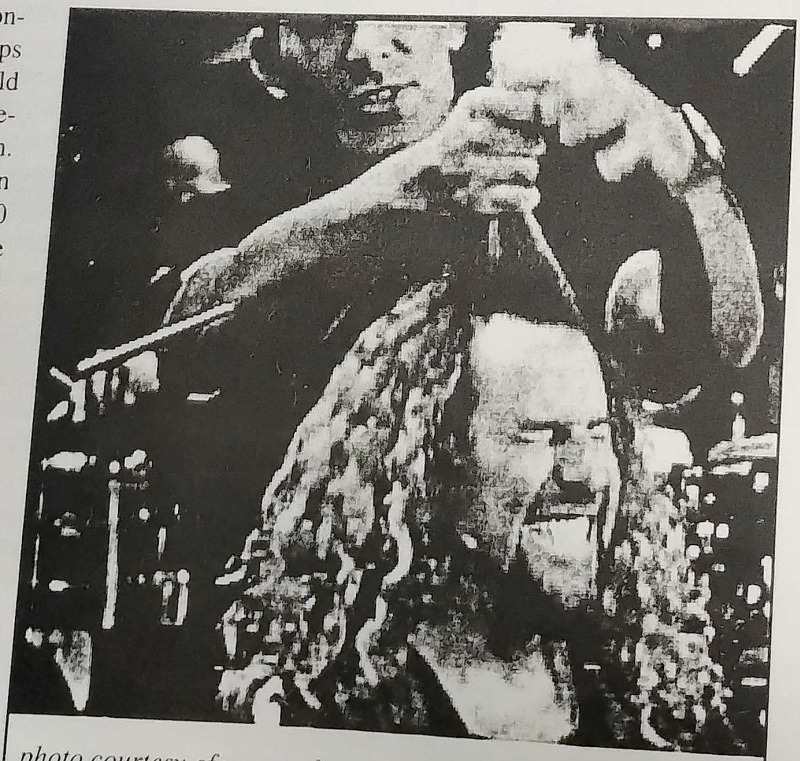


photo courtesy of www.redrocker.com
Sammy Hagar sits still for a haircut on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. He donated his hair to Locks Of Love.

Donors may send their hair in the form of a pony tail inside a plastic bag by mail with a hair donation form enclosed.

"I would be very willing to donate my hair," said senior Elaine Bushnell.

Sammy Hagar is one of many people who have decided to donate their hair for this important cause.

Area salons that make hair donations possible include Tim's Salon in Chatham, IL and 17th Street Designer's Club in Belleville, IL.

To find a hair donation form, or to learn more about Locks of Love, go to www.locksoflove.org.

Tickling the Ivories

by Andrea Zimmermann

Victoria Ruppert is one of many unrecognized talented musicians at Alton High School. She has received many awards and accomplished many of her personal goals along the way.

Like most American children, Ruppert was introduced to music by her parents. She was in a typical scenario: summertime, bored child, too much time. Her parents seized the opportunity to propose music lessons to their eldest daughter, a third-grader at the time. As hoped, Ruppert said, "Yes, that sounds like fun."

Not knowing she would become the distinguished pianist that she is today, Ruppert began her lessons with Maxine Cornell. Cornell continued to be her teacher until recently. Demonstrating that not all piano players are child prodigies, Ruppert remarked that she was so nervous that she messed up many times during her first piano recital.

Years of drilling on scales and proper technique have made it possible for Ruppert to accomplish many pieces. "The most difficult piece I have ever worked on is probably the 'Fantasia Impromptu,' by Chopin," said Ruppert.

Photo by Julie Strassman
Victoria Ruppert, sophomore, is one of the most talented musicians at Alton High. She has won numerous awards for her skillful piano playing.

One of Ruppert's greatest accomplishments transpired last October when she received the Soantina Award. She was required to memorize five sonatinas, a nine page piece of music containing at least three movements in each page.

Ruppert is also a five-time Guild award winner. To receive this award, she had to perform in front of a judge. From there, judges decided how well she measured up to the other competitors from around the state. She was categorized as an "advanced intermediate."

Every year, the Mildred Dunlop Scholarship is offered to Alton High School musicians. Hoping to obtain the opportunity to spend seven days at a camp at the University of Illinois, Ruppert auditioned. Performing in front of Alton High School's very own music director, Anne Davis, she played "Toccato," by Khachaterian. It is a modern\ contemporary piece of music, and Ruppert's favorite.

To her relief, she qualified for the scholarship. During the seven-day stay on the campus, Ruppert learned the "Creole Dance," and performed it for a large audience of parents on the last day. "I met a lot of nice people, and it really influenced my playing style. When I came home, I felt more motivated to practice," said Ruppert.

Ruppert was also one of the AHS musicians selected to represent the high school at IMEA, Illinois Music and Education Association. Unfortunately, she was not as successful there as she had been in the past. "It was the single most frightening experience of my entire life," Ruppert recalled.

Victoria believes that being involved in extracurricular activities is important and broadens a persons horizons. Although, Ruppert has not had much time to tinker on the keys lately, school work has kept her preoccupied.

Fall Play Delayed

by Alex Tanner
Senior Editor

The fall play, *Rumors* by Neil Simon, has been postponed until January. Due to Mr. Waters having appendicitis, the cast's hard work has been put on hold until the winter play slot. Therefore, only two plays and one musical will be performed this year.

Although the same cast will be used for the play, many underclassmen are disappointed with the current situation. Thespian points are awarded to students for participating in plays and musicals. To become a thespian, one must obtain ten points. Since there will be one less play this year, underclassmen will earn less points. Being a member on crew earns two points, cast members receive 4-8 points depending on the role they perform.

Mr. Davis, Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Sutton have all volunteered to stand in while Mr. Waters is recovering. The set is not yet complete, but work will resume soon. The spring play and musical will hopefully go ahead as scheduled.

From the Bottom of Our Hearts

Our gratitude and thanks seem inadequate compared to the extreme show of love and care you have for Abby and us. Your overwhelming generosity and tender loving support have helped us through the hardest time of our lives.

Abby would have been overwhelmed to witness how her shy and quiet way had touched so many.

Thank you,
Pat, Marla and Lindsey Purcell

Learning about the Birds and the Bees

by Kali Tegel

Sex education is a headline grabber in newspapers throughout the country. Though most people agree that children should be given information about sex, the controversy centers on two issues: is the school the appropriate place to offer such information, and if so, should it limit the talks to strictly factual information.

Other thoughts about the psychological, social, health, and moral aspects of sex are beginning to come to mind to many parents. The question about these thoughts is if they should be included in the curriculum.

A parent of a student that attends Alton High School said, "Runaway teenage pregnancy rates and the wildlife spread of AIDS makes it imperative for the schools to teach sex education, especially since the parents don't teach it."

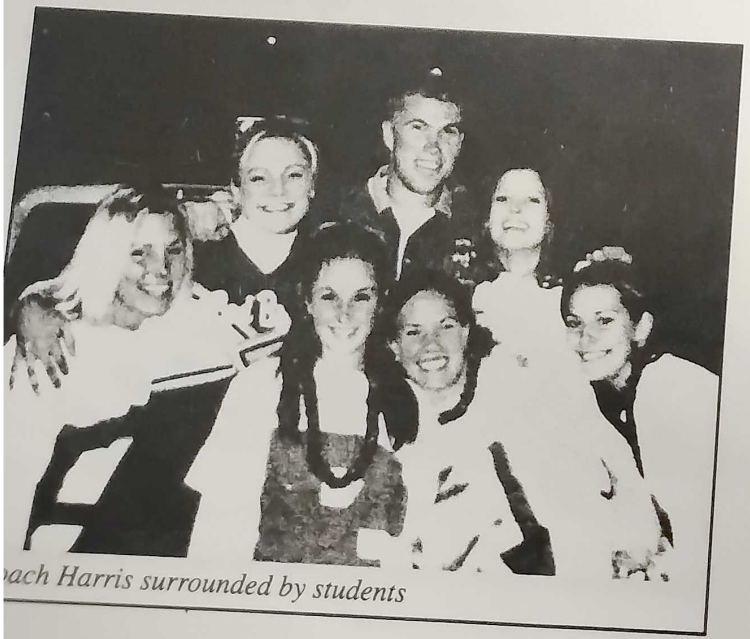
Some people argue that because sex is such an intimate topic and is closely related to religious and moral beliefs, sex education is the responsibility of the home and the church.

A parent of a student that attends Gilson Brown mentioned, "Sex, love, birth, and family life are all one package and should be discussed in the reassuring warmth of the parents' presence."

A parent that spoke about his child that attends Eunice Smith stated, "Sex education reduces one of life's most profound and mysterious activities and ends up promoting irresponsible sexual activity."

Arguments over the kind of sex education the school should offer are equally heated. Some who support comprehensive sex education programs say sex is a natural and healthy part of life, but others believe this approach negates certain moral and religious beliefs and would recommend an abstinence-based curriculum until married.

Whether it is believed that schools should teach sex education classes or not, it is totally up to an individual's beliefs. But it should be known that the main point of these classes is to prevent teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.



oach Harris surrounded by students

High Hopes of Salvation Army to Meet Goal

by Alex McMullen

As the holidays draw near, people are reminded that giving is more important than receiving. Many area businesses will be adorned with images of family fellowship and charity.

The Salvation Army, which will enter its one-hundred second year of its Red Kettle drive, is hoping to raise over two million dollars in the St. Louis area. Alton area businesses, including Target and Alton Square Mall, will have bell-ringers greeting customers at the door.

Many organizations will volunteer their schedules to fill bell-ringing vacancies this winter.

One such organization is Boy Scout Troop 126. Troop 126, which is led by Dave Roller, has six active members at Alton High School. During the early days of December, the troop will volunteer their services to the Salvation Army at the Park-N-Shop across from Lewis and Clark Community College.

"We hope to have two kids and two parents working every hour," said Roller.

The scouts will ring from 8a.m. to 2p.m. They hope to see everyone there.

Where's the Spirit?

by Christin Campbell
Photo Editor

The seniors have been trying to get the underclassmen involved with participating at sporting events, such as getting dressed up in red and grey, face painting, and being loud and enthusiastic. The seniors feel that they should pass on the tradition to the juniors as it has been in the years past.

"I don't think we show enough school spirit," said senior Chelsea Witcher. "The pep rallys used to be so organized, but pulling a fire alarm and having everyone crowd into the Pit is just an excuse for people to get out of class."

The Booster Club, with the help of the cheerleaders, made wooden signs for football players, cheerleaders and soccer players. This attempt of trying to help with school spirit lasted for only a short period.

"It made me feel good waking up to see that bright, beautiful football sign in my front yard," said senior Sam Plunkett.

The upcoming event that has the juniors and seniors looking forward to is Powder Puff. To those people that don't know what Powder Puff is, it is a fun activity that is held in November in which junior and senior girls play against each other in a gruesome football game. Junior and senior boys are the coaches and cheerleaders for their grade.

"I think that we are going to kill the juniors this year," said senior Sara Knipping. "I love it how the parents get into the game so much, since my fellow classmates that aren't participating in Powder Puff aren't."

"I wish more people would get involved with Powder Puff because it does help with school spirit," said senior Karla Killam.

Duke Bakery

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???????? Ignorance

Cover Story
by Andy Duggan
Cover Story Editor

It's always interesting to see just how much people know about anything. We asked people of all ages at Alton High about miscellaneous facts that we thought anyone would likely know. What we found were very compelling results. Apparently, they didn't know as much as we thought. You be the judge.....

Photo by Jennifer Frederick

~We interviewed Christine Gill, junior, some basic stuff. Let's see how she did.

RBW: What kind of tree did George Washington cut down?

C.G.: An oak tree?

RBW:Right.....how about a cherry tree.

RBW: Who is in Grant's tomb?

C.G.: Isn't that an Egyptian thing?" I don't know.

RBW: Come on it's Grant's tomb. Think about it who is buried in Grant's tomb???.....GRANT!!!!!!

RBW: When was the constitution passed.

That was a tough one but the other 2, wow!

Photo by Jennifer Frederick

We had to find out how much every one knew, so who better to ask than our school principal. **Mr. Robbins we thought would do just average, but let's see just how he did.**

RBW: What kind of tree did George Washington chop down?

P. Rob: "I believe it was a cherry tree."

RBW: Who was the second president of the United States?

P. Rob: John Adams.

RBW: Who's in Grants tomb?

P. Rob: Grant.

RBW: Who is the president on the face of the penny?

P. Rob: Lincoln.

Surprisingly, Mr. Robbins got all of the questions right. Not that we had any doubt that he wouldn't.

Ben Tyler, senior, was another upper classman who we interviewed. We asked him the same questions as the first 2.

RBW:Who was our second president?

B.T.: John Hancock

RBW: What kind of tree did George Washington cut down?

B.T.: An oak Tree

RBW: Name one of our two senators.

B.T.: John Shimkus.

RBW: Is there anyway for a person to contract anthrax through e-mail?

B.T.: No. Your modem will screen all of the anthrax particles for you.

I'm shocked and appalled. WOW!

Photo by Jennifer Frederick

Lindsey Boomershine, senior, was quizzed in knowledgable facts, how did she do?

RBW: What kind of tree did George Washington cut down?

L.B.: Apple?

RBW: Lastly Why do we celebrate Thanksgiving?

L.B.: We celebrate Thanksgiving because it's a day to eat food.

That was a close one almost right on the last question.

e Is Bliss??????????

The next person we interviewed is Casey Locke, a sophomore. We asked Casey pretty much the same questions and we asked the first.

RBW: Who was the second president of the United States?

C.L.: John Jackson

RBW: Who is on the penny?

C.L.: George Washington

RBW: Yea, right. Have seen any money lately, guess not.

RBW: What kind of tree did George Washington cut down?

C.L.: Oak? No wait...Maple?

RBW: How about none of the above. Can we say Cherry tree?!!!!

RBW: Why do we celebrate Thanksgiving?

C.L.: Because the pilgrims came to town.

That was close but thanks for giving the wrong answer yet again.

Photo by Jennifer Frederick

We did find some people who actually knew the answers to the questions. For a minute there we were a little worried. **We interviewed Nick Hausman, while he was day dreaming in study hall.** Here's what we asked him.

RBW:Who was the second President of the United States of America?

N.H.: John Adams.

RBW: What kind of tree did George Washington cut down?

N.H.: Cherry.

RBW: Who is on the penny?

N.H.: Tenacious D.

RBW: When did the constitution get passed?

N.H.: 1783.

RBW: Is there anyway for a person to get anthrax through e-mail?

N.H.: No. Duh.

This next guy didn't want to be identified due to his lack or information and general ignorance. **For practical purposes we'll all him John Senior.** We asked him some new questions. They're pretty easy though.

RBW: What was The Great Depression?

J.S.: The Great Depression was what Mariah Carey went through a couple months ago right?

RBW: Right, well John Senior thinks he's funny.

RBW: What is Pearl Harbor?

J.S.: Pearl Harbor is where people go to buy pearls.

RBW: Who invented peanut butter?

J.S.: That's easy it's Peter Pan.

RBW: What county do we live in?

J.S.: We live in Sheriff county, I saw that on a police car.

RBW: Who was the first president of the United States of America?

J.S.: Dick Clark?

RBW: How many states are there in the continental United States?

J.S.: 1????

RBW: Who is the current Vice-President?

J.S.: Jesse Jackson???????

Robin Hill, sophomore, answered our tough and challenging questions. She um.....well she answered them.

RBW: What kind of tree did George washington chop down?

R.H.: Redwood. (Please note that redwood trees can be hundreds and hundreds of feet tall.)

RBW: The last question we asked was when did the Constitution get passed?

R.H.: 1950 or 1960 something?

Brian Ray, Junior, had some good things to say.....or something.

RBW: Who was our second President?

B.R.: Jefferson.

RBW: Name one of our two state senators.

B.R.: John Ashcroft, Janet Reno.

RBW: Who's buried in Grants tomb?

B.R.: George Washington. (Or it could be Grant????!!!!)

RBW: When did the Constitution get passed?

B.R.: 1976.

Please note, though these people are just a sampling of students and staff at Alton high. All questions given had easy answers. In no way were the answers to the questions taken out of context or changed. All answers given were real answers given by the people who were asked. However illogical or stupid the answers were they were real.

ENTERTAINMENT

RedBird Word

November 2001

Jimmy Gets Laughs Away from Saturday Night

by Alison Hanold
Editor-in-Chief

A spotlight shines onto an empty stage. Young actor/comedian Jimmy Fallon saunters onstage and smiles bashfully as the audience laughs uproariously at his comic routine. Although this situation may sound familiar to the fans of *Saturday Night Live*, this stage is far from that of the NBC Studios in New York City. This stage is set on the campuses of colleges and universitites around the country.

Fallon, who is best known for his newscasts on "Weekend Update," a weekly skit on the hit show, recently embarked on a college tour. On October 26, Fallon crossed the stage at the Decatur Civic Center, wowing the students of Millikin University.

Wearing his usual garb of the slacker twenty-something-year-old (baggy pants, a t-shirt and excessively messy hair), he started his act by amazing the audience with his impressions of many famous actors, including Robin Williams, Chris Rock and funny man *SNL* predecessor Adam Sandler.

"His impressions were so uncanny, my jaw literally dropped," said former AHS student and audience member Lori Logan.

Photo courtesy of efanguide.com

Fallon then proceeded to speak of his college experiences, identifying greatly with the college student based audience, himself having the demeanor and attitude of the average college student. He then spoke of his career on *SNL*. On the subject of his co-star and friend Chris Kattan, Fallon said, "He's a great guy. *Corky Romano* may not be so hot, but he's still a good guy."

Next in the show, Fallon played a variety of his comedic songs. These songs included his original punk-rock Christmas song entitled "Snowball Fight," and a song rich with teenage angst called "Drinking in the Woods." He also performed some parodies of popular music, while singing in flawless impersonating voices.

Although the audience consisted mainly of Millikin University students, many hard-core Jimmy Fallon fans traveled to see their favorite celebrity. One of these fans, a high school senior named Sara, traveled several hours to see him. She said, "I love Jimmy so much. When he walked onstage, I could have died. I was so excited to even be in the same room as him."

Meridian Coffee House is Prime Hangout

by Julie Strassman
Senior Editor

Enter a softly lit cafe. People sit in plush green couches, chatting, enjoying lattes and biscotti, admiring the beautiful paintings by local artists, reading poetry, and just hanging out. The aroma of freshly brewed cappuccino mingles with the live music of a local band. No, it's not the "Central Perk" set of *Friends*; it's The Meridian Coffee House in downtown Alton.

The Meridian, under the new ownership of Liz Randall and Alison Dreith, is seeing some great changes, with more to come. The second floor has been reopened as an art gallery. Being displayed now are paintings and art objects by local artists Andy Dykeman, former member of the band Forge Nothing, and Christina Llewski, whose wearable art boutique, *Venus Envy*, beautifully captures the unique flavor of her collection.

Live music is also back at The Meridian. Randall and Dreith hope to host many local bands and have plans for concerts in the near future. The Alton band, *The Guns of Navarone*, will be playing on November 17 . The third floor of The Meridian may one day be opened as the venue for bands, but no definite plans have been made yet.

The Meridian may soon be serving alcohol as well as coffee. The owners hope to get their liquor license within the year, after which regional wines and coffee liquors will be added to the menu. The no smoking policy, however, will remain in effect for the present, as ventilation is poor in on the first floor.

The Meridian Coffee House is located at 10 E Broadway in downtown Alton and is open Monday through Saturday 11am to 11pm.

Upcoming Concerts

The Strokes
Mississippi Nights
November 21

Greenwheel
Mississippi Nights
November 22

King Crimson
The Pageant
November 25

Slayer
The Pageant
November 28

Linkin Park
The Family Arena
November 28

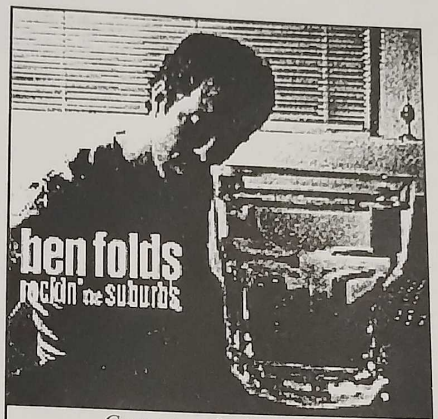
Aerosmith
Savvis Center
December 11

Concerts are subject to change.

Ben Folds Rocks the Suburbs

by Elaine Myers

Ben Folds, former member of *Ben Folds Five*, has does it again with another hit album. Since the 2000 break up of *Ben Folds Five*, Ben Folds has been hard at work working on his new solo album, *Rockin' the Suburbs*. This album is 100% Ben, not just in style, but Folds is actually playing all of the instruments along with the vocals.



Courtesy of cdnow.com

Folds' new and much anticipated album hit stores September 11 in the U.S. The first single, "Rockin' the Suburbs," hit radios on July 10 with fast track adds in several markets. The video for "Rockin' the Suburbs" was produced by none other than "Weird" Al Yankovic. Tracks on the new record include: "Annie Waits," " Zak and Sara," " Still Fighting It," " Gone," "Fred Jones, Pt. 2," " The Ascent of Stan," "Losing Lisa," "Carrying Cathy," " Not the Same," " Rockin' the Suburbs," " Fired," and "The Luckiest."

The finished product, from all reports, is outstanding. It's not *Ben Folds Five* nor is it *Fear of Pop*, though the elements are certainly there.

Ben Folds has been sent a letter asking if this album would be much like Fear of Pop or any previous *Ben Folds Five* albums. His answer, "Nope." Folds said in a letter to his fans after listing the new tracks on his album, "You win if you can figure out what they have in common. Is there a theme?"

Ben Fold's Rockin' the Suburbs is a must have for a fan of *Ben Folds Five* of *Fear of Pop* or a fan of Indie Rock.

Horseshoes and Handgrenades

by John Mook
Senior Editor

The Alton Area music scene has been blowing up lately. Once thought dead after the breakups of several local bands including *Back of Dave*, *Autumn Clock*, *Judge Nothing*, *Nova Scotia*, and *Salusa Secundus*, several bands have been coming out of the wood work. These new bands have extreme talent, creativity, and originality. *Horseshoes and Handgrenades* is one of them.

Horseshoes and Handgrenades have been together for the last five months, but they sound like they together for at least a couple years. "They are a very talented group for how young they are . They have a lot of potential," said senior Steve Allen.

"I have only heard them once, but they sound great to me," said senior Molly Peipert. *Horseshoes and Handgrenades* consists of Michael Huber on drums, Drew Mader on bass and drums, John Huber on guitar, and Matt Anderson on guitar and vocals.

When asked what kind of music they play, guitarist Matt Anderson said, "That is impossible to determine."

Ed Mcpike said, "*Horseshoes and Handgrenades'* music is like taking every kind of music and mixing into one ."

"There style of music reminds me a lot of the style of the band *Heroic Doses*," said Molly Peipert.

Horseshoes and Handgrenades have several shows set up at Meridian Coffee House but dates are tentative. At shows they have T-Shirts for sale. The T-Shirts come in many different colors and styles. The sizes range from small to extra large.

Horseshoes and Handgrenades are planning on getting into a recording studio to hopefully record an E.P.

Horseshoes and Handgrenades have a lot of musical experience. Anderson played in Marching 100 for two years. He also was in another local band called *Clever Endeavor*. Mader also has experience with local bands. He was in *Salusa Secundus*.

"Our shows are a lot of fun, and we always try to put on a good show. I hope to see a lot of new faces at our next show," Anderson said.

Upcoming Movies

Black Knight
Martin Lawrence
November 21

Spy Game
Brad Pitt
November 21

Texas Rangers
James Van Der Beek
November 30

Ali
Will Smith & Jamie Fox
December 25

Kate & Leopold
Meg Ryan
Hugh Jackman
December 21

Video Releases

Pearl Harbor
Ben Affleck
December 4

Rush Hour 2
Jackie Chan
Chris Tucker
December 11

Moulin Rouge
Nicole Kidman
Ewan McGregor
November 13

Scary Movie 2
Marlon & Shawn Wayans
December 18

The Princess Diary
Julie Andrews
December 18

Borland Bails; Bizkit Limper

by Doug Beiser

"Duh." A lot of fans thought that this split between Borland and the band was going to happen sooner or later, because of the bands slow transition from rock to hip-hop.

Fans started to have their suspicions confirmed when Fred Durst wrote in the October 6 post that the band, minus Borland, had been in the studio. According to close sources to the band tension within the band grew when one member allegedly slept with the girlfriend of another band member.

Wes and his unique style added to the band's personality, but not anymore. Now he is pushing his dreams on his own, by forming a new band.

According to a statement on the *Limp Bizkit's* web site, the departure is "amicable".

"Both Limp Bizkit and Borland will continue to pursue their respective musical careers." The statement goes on to say, "Both wish each other the best of luck in the future endeavors."

Durst, the groups' lead singer, had the following to say about the split. Durst said "Wes

Picture courtesy of www.bizkitmusic.com/picture

was a big part of *Limp Bizkit* you're used to but his decision to leave has left us in a place where we know the best of *Limp Bizkit* is yet to come."

On the web site Durst writes " (DJ) Lethal, John (Otto), Sam (Rivers), and I are gonna take this as opportunity to take all were about. Life is unpredictable (the brake up) and though we're shocked, were not discouraged. As the world turns, so does *Limp Bizkit*."

Incubus' New Album Is Out

by Alan Mabee

Incubus has a new album that hits stores on October 23. Incubus fans have been anticipating this album ever since their announcement in January.

The new album include new singles such as "Wish You Were Here" and "Warning." Radio stations such as 105.7 and 89.9 have been playing both.

The band put out a double platinum album in 2000 titled *Make Yourself* and several before that, including *Science* and *Enjoy Incubus.* The group has also been very successful these past five years, with one platinum and one double platinum album.

Incubus fans rejoiced when the band announced that they had been working on new material last January. Now the time has finally come for a new album to release.

They passed through St. Louis on the sixteenth of October, and the show was very successful. Their next was in Kansas City Mo.

Drew Barrymore Rides In Cars With Boys

by Stefanie Walker
Senior Editor

Riding In Cars With Boys, starring Drew Barrymore, is a wonderful heart warming movie. Based on a true story by Beverly Donofrio, the film is about how her life changes since her pregnancy at the age of fifteen.

Beverly finds out her best friend, played by Brittney Murphy, is also pregnant . They go through their pregnancy together and she has a little girl.

The film is narrated by Beverly's son Jason, played by Adam Gracia. He narrates his mothers story in his view as a child.

Beverly's plan was to finish high school and go to New York City, but her family makes her marry the father of her baby Ray, played by Steven Zahn. Some years later she divorces Ray because of his alcohol and drug addiction. Despite the step backs in her life she manages to finish high school and work her way to a New York newspaper.

Riding In Cars With Boys is a story about life. How one thing can change your whole future, and not let that one thing stop your life.

Do not take this seriously folks!!!

PLEASE VOTE FOR ME!!!

by Nancy McDonald
Humor Editor

I, N. Ann McDonald, will be running for President in the year 2020. This is old news. There's only one problem: I need a majority of the American people to vote for me. I must win! If I don't win I'm in deep trouble. I don't know how to do anything besides count my money (emphasis on "my") and lie straight through my teeth.

As far as I know, no one else has announced that they will be running for President in 2020. This is a very good sign that I will win. If for some odd reason someone would run against me, I pity the fool. I do believe that my campaign "promises" would blow his or hers out of the water.

All politicians are concerned with taxes. They run around in their thousand dollar suits screaming, "We've got to lower taxes!" Lower taxes? How about we do away with taxes altogether? Yep, no taxes in 2020. I don't know how our economy would do, but my trusty adviser (Mr. Magic Eightball) has told me to ask him again later. I guess I'll have to get back to you on that one.

Another major topic amongst politicians is education. Many of our governors, representatives, and Presidents have all gone to fancy-schmancy schools where they learn to put their pinky fingers up in the air while sipping their cups of extra grande, no foam, five sugars, two creams, mocha cappuccino with chocolate sprinkles on top. They don't know what's going on in public schools. I, on the other hand, have always considered public schools my second home. Well, that and this great little place my grandparents own out in Martha's Vineyard; stay there once and you'll never want to leave.

I've really gotten off the subject. Education is important to everyone (duh!). If I were to be President, I would make sure that everyone had the right to a good education. All children would be required to watch at least three hours of "Schoolhouse Rock!" a day. Teenagers would be required to study the fine arts of nap-taking. College students would automatically graduate if they know how to spell the word Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious.

Like every other normal teenager out there, I am very concerned about what will happen to our health care when we get older. I've already got that figured out. I know this doctor who doesn't really know much about "medicine" or "diseases", but oh how he makes me laugh. Of course I'm talking about Dr. Seuss who, I am told, can do wonders for arthritis. Mr. Magic Eightball is now telling me that maybe I should rethink the whole Dr. Seuss thing. . . and maybe he's right. From now on if somebody asks me about health care, I'll just say "Health care? Never heard of it."

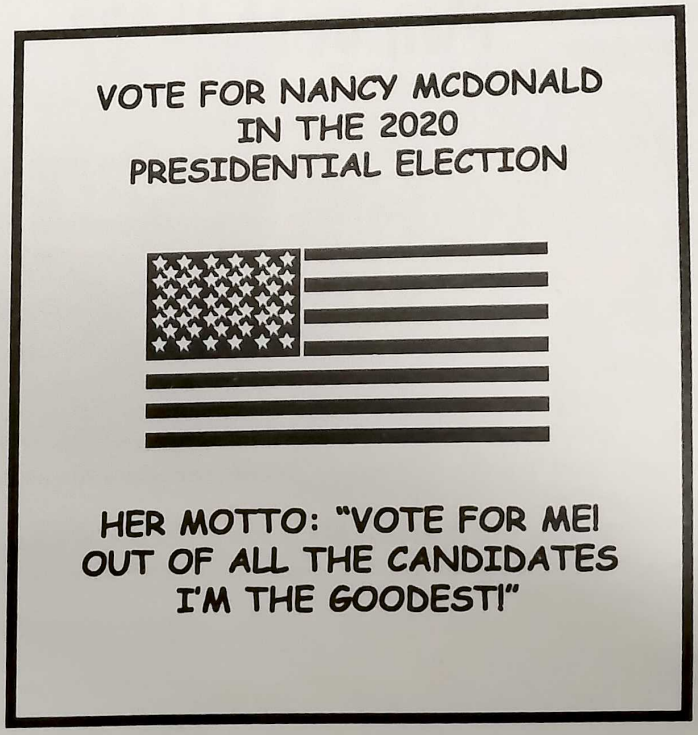
I'm sure that many of you are wondering who my running mate will be. I haven't quite decided yet, but I've got some possibilities lined up. If you particularly like any of my suggestions, then please tell me. I may not pay attention to your answer, but at least you'll feel special.

How about Jerry Seinfeld? I could easily win if I had him by my side. Well, as long as Jerry apologized for his less-than-fantastic final episode of *Seinfeld*. They all end up in jail, then what? Parole maybe? Time off for good behavior? WHAT?!?

Okay, if not Jerry Seinfeld, how about *The Price is Right* host Bob Barker? I realize that right now Bob is very old and by the time I run for president he will look like some kind of shriveled up mummy you see in *National Geographic* magazines; but Bob is going to need a job. Can you believe that he's retiring from *The Price is Right*? We'll miss you Bob!

My last candidate for Vice President is junior Lindsey Dubree. I think that she would make a fine running-mate because she answered all of those stupid trivia\survey questions correctly that other people missed. Did you know, according to junior Christine Gill, that Grant's Tomb was an "Egyptian thing"? I sure didn't.

Now that you have read my article, or at least skimmed it over briefly, I hope I have your vote for 2020. Did I mention that if you vote for me you will receive a free toaster? Don't expect the toaster to work though.



Sharks don't kill people. People kill people.

Thanksgiving, Tradition and Mutilated Turkeys

by Andrew Bott

For some mystical reason, I had a really hard time coming up with an article topic for this month's issue. At first, I thought I could do something about Thanksgiving, but there is really nothing funny about that, except turkeys and that thing that hangs from their necks.

Sometimes my friends and I go around to all the turkey farms in the area and laugh at the turkeys. I'm kidding of course. My friends don't go. What is the turkey neck thing? If it fell off, would the turkey live? Think about it. It's a loose piece of skin that hangs from the poor thing's neck. It flaps triumphantly in the wind as the rusty pickup truck makes its way to the turkey processing plant, and then what do the butchers do to them? Somewhere, there must be an extensively large piece of tupperware containing worthless neck skin from the turkeys' neck thingy - for which its true purpose remains unknown.

Thanksgiving is kind of an off holiday. For me, it has always served as a midpoint of Halloween's candy and Christmas' presents. Nothing happens on Thanksgiving. Why can't Thanksgiving have a real purpose like Arbor Day, Flag Day, or Secretaries' Day? We know there are trees, flags, and disgruntled women who live their lives in servitude to ungrateful middle-aged bald men, but there is no archaeological evidence proving that the Pilgrims actually broke bread with the Natives.

Even if they did, obviously our ancestors weren't the brightest crayons in the box. For example, they travel across the entire Atlantic Ocean and land here just in time for winter! Then some Indian dude comes over and convinces the starving groups of settlers to plant corn and ferilize it with fish! EAT THE FISH you buckle-hat gimps!

It's amazing that we even celebrate this holiday. I mean, are we all expected to believe that the Native Americans and the Pilgrims chose some random day in November to sit at a picnic table and mutilate fowl?

Speaking of mutilating fowl, here is another question that has always boggled my mind: why is it that the senior male member of the family carves the turkey? Is it his duty to the family? I wouldn't want bird guts and whatever else on my hands, but at what point in history did that responsibility get dealt?

It's all about sacred tradition, which is really a funny thing. In my *unique* family we don't eat a large turkey dinner for Thanksgiving. We sit down and have a large turkey lunch, then have the leftover turkey for dinner. I guess it does cut down on what everyone takes home and throws away, though it also means that we have to spend an extra five or six hours at Grandma's house staring at the wall, afraid of conversation. There is always that one aunt or uncle (no one talks about them because they just got out of prison, but has to be invited to Thanksgiving) that might disagree with what someone says, and that would just throw the whole Thanksgiving spirit into chaotic distress.

No matter how hard anyone tries, they can't take away my Thanksgiving spirit. I never had any to begin with. I'm no more thankful for anything on Thanksgiving than I am the rest of the year. Actually, I am thankful for one thing this time of year: Christmas is coming soon.

Matthew Lesko- Man or Myth???

by Jay Theobald
Senior Editor

These days most commercials are trite and dull, satisfied to simply hold ugly children at gunpoint and have them compliment the phonics game. One man rises above the pathetic standard, however. His name, you ask? Matthew Lesko.

Jumping up and down clad in a Riddler costume with his book in hand, Lesko tells the people of America how they can get rich by leeching off their own government. Truely a patriot if I've ever seen one.

So how did Mr. Lesko gain his incredible charismatic powers and energy? Some say he acquired them through a freak accident involving a toaster inside a microwave. Others say it has something to do with an illegal, top secret drug from Madagascar. I, however, think it's due to a steady diet of prozac and Mountain Dew Code Red.

By now you're all probably in awe of this hero of the airwaves, but curious if his *get rich quick* program actually works. Well, why not ask a client?

"Can I borrow a dollar?" Asks Dan Smith, a loyal subscriber to Lesko's doctrine.

Heh heh, no filthy hobo. No you can't.

The Meaning of Life!!

by Jay Theobald
Senior Editor

Haven't you ever wondered if there isn't more to life than eating Doritos and watching TV? A few nights ago I did, and decided to do something about it. I set out to find...*the true meaning of life!!!* (insert thunder sound effect here) Besides, I had 90 minutes to kill before the *Power Puff Girls* came on.

Now, as we all know, thinking sucks. So rather than come to my own conclusions and do work, I decided to run around town asking people for answers.

I came up to a house and knocked on the door. Unfortunately, the resident leapt out his window, ran inside his van, then drove off at 80 mph. I guess he mistook me for a Jehovah Witness or something.

Continuing my search for the truth, I ventured downtown and questioned a man lying beside the road.

"Oh thank God, I got hit by a car while I was walking across the street! My spleen and ribs are crushed, I need to get to a hospi--Hey! Where are you going...?!"

Finding no new information here, I have up and got a coke. Coke is good.

SPORTS
RedBird Word
November 2001

No Fluff in Powder Puff

by Carol Lyons and Courtney Schien
Sports Editor

Registration for the 2001 Powder Puff game was held after school on Friday, October 19th. According to Student Council sponsor, Gayle Burjes, approximately 25 girls signed up for each team. The coaches for the juniors are Derek Vaughn, Carl McMullen, Alex McMullen, Zach West, Mark Goines, Orlando Woolfolk, Anthony Gater, Drew Funkhouser, and Todd Lockhart. The coach for the senior team is John Vetter.

Burjes is making it a requirement that the boy cheerleaders wear skirts, high heel shoes, fishnet hoes, and appropriate makeup and hairstyles. "There will be no ugly cheerleaders," says Burjes.

Junior Jessica Fabri is responsible for the half time show. Fabri stated "It's a two way deal, if the girl cheerleaders have to wear skirts, then the guy cheerleaders have to wear skirts, too."

Of course, anyone who is a fan of the Powder Puff game has an opinion of which team they think will win. When asked who he thought would dominate the field, sophomore Mike Minton stated, "I think the seniors will win just because they have more experience."

Freshman Amber Militello responded, "I'm cheering for the juniors since I'm friends with a lot of juniors."

The Powder Puff game date has been pushed back to the 17th of November. The date is being moved to ensure ample practice time for the girls before the game. The senior team hopes to practice three or four days a week. The junior team hopes to practice around the same amount. According to one other new rule, it is essential that both teams have the same amount of practice time. "The juniors will come to the game with a few trick-plays up their sleeves," says junior coach Carl McMullen. All proceeds raised from the game will be donated to the relief efforts for the Adopt a Family fund.

Give Me an "A!"

by Kari Oglesby
Backpage Editor

Flipping their way into the new school year, the Alton High Cheerleaders were strong, as a result of their long hard practices. This has all payed off in the long-run. The squad of 38 cheerleaders includes a Freshman/Sophomore team, a JV team, and, of course, a Varsity team.

The coaching staff switched around a lot from last year. The freshman/sophomore squad is now coached by Gale York, or as most students might know her, the honors Algebra teacher. The JV squad is coached by Chris Sharp, and the Varsity coach and the head coach, is Angie Gibson.

Varsity Cheerleading Squad

This past summer the majority of the cheerleaders attended a private cheerleading camp. The camp staff has stressful auditions for cheerleaders to have the title of an "All Star Cheerleader." This year senior, and two year All Star member, Megan Moyer, senior Chelsea Caldwell, and junior Allison York, both first time All Stars, were awarded a trip to London, England, to walk and cheer to represent the Universal Cheerleading Association (UCA) in London's Thanksgiving parade. "Being chosen to be an All Star was sure a great surprise. I never imagined it happening, and when it did, I couldn't believe it," said Caldwell.

Twenty of the cheerleaders are making a big change this year. The Varsity and JV squads are taking a highly difficult routine to numerous competitions. New uniforms have been ordered, and the squads have been working sometimes for three and a half hours to prepare for this event. The football Varsity coach captains, Chelsea Caldwell and Jennifer Moats, are leading their squad to the top. Coach Gibson, a high school and college cheerleader, is working hard to choreograph this routine. "We're joining the two squads so we can do very difficult stunts, and blow the other squads away. We're going to win," said Gibson.

With basketball season approaching, the cheerleaders are working hard to stay in shape. The cheerleaders are practicing three nights a week to learn more basketball cheers, and to perfect the other 60-80 sideline cheers. The cheerleaders are planning to lead the basketball players to victory in the 2001-2002 season.

Quarterback Retires After Senior Year

by Katie Scoggins
Senior Editor

Another football season has come and gone. Yet for senior Quarterback John Vetter, this was his last football season.

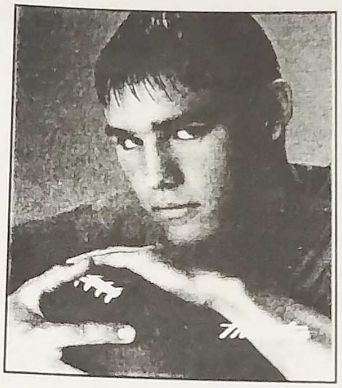
After high school, John doesn't plan to play football in college. "I just want to go to school," replied John.

John has been playing football for three years, and out of the three years he enjoyed the coaching staff his senior year the best.

"They worked the team very hard, but they were fun as well," explained John.

This year John went through a number of injuries from a broken nose to severely sprained ankles. He also had an appendectomy two weeks before two a day practices.

"It was difficult not being able to play in some games and playing hurt. I hated not being 100 percent. Despite the injuries I had to make quick recoveries. Coach Hook, Coach Harris, Trainer Dave, and Dr. Paone helped me out a lot," said John.



John pointed out the highlights of his senior year. "The entire season. My senior year was the first time my team achieved a winning record. Making the playoffs was our goal and we met it. I wanted to help change the program around," replied John.

Football played a huge role in John's life through high school. John made a few comments on how it affected him.

"Football was very good for me. I have a better work ethic, I am stronger, and more athletic, and it taught me what dedication was. After my freshman year I no longer wanted to play football after high school. I only wanted to play and have fun in high school. My goal was to help turn the program around. My wish is that the Redbirds will continue to succeed."

Alumni Come Back For Final Challenge

by Jennifer Frederick
Co-Sports Editor and Photo Editor

It was time once again for the AHS Redbird Alumni Hockey Game. Past grads from the AHS Flames and recent grads from the Redbirds played against the current 2001-2002 varsity team.

With past players like Nate Hill, Jon Diaz, and Eric Heischmidt returning to play, who knows what the out come would be. Sophomore Nick Wittman opened up the scoring capturing two goals and senior Mike Diaz got another two for the team. Alumni Ben Hickerson got the lone goal for the Alumni and junior Austin Luster closed it out giving the Redbirds a 5-1 victory.

Next the Alumni played the returning Flames. The younger guys beat the old guys. Then the varsity team lost to the Alton Flames.

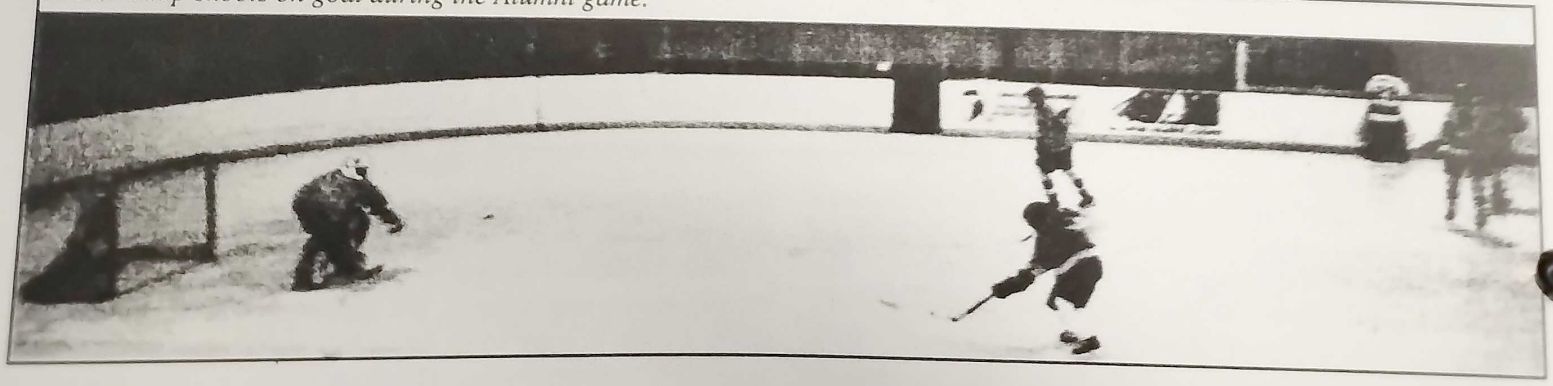
"It was fun to play with all the old guys I played with my freshman year,"said senior Mike Diaz.

Ryan Theen said,"I didn't like playing the old guys cause you couldn't check them."

"It was fun. The game was meant to be fun, but all you wanted to do was go out there and beat your old teammates. It was really good to see those guys. They don't come home enough,"said junior Patrick Read.

Photos by Jennifer Frederick
Alton High hockey team stand during the singing of the National Anthem.

Blaise Kulp shoots on goal during the Alumni game.



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Horoscopes

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)- You need some help in the love area. Reveal your love secrets this month, it may help your love life. Cancer might play a role.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec.21)- Wishes come true. Stay focused on romance. Your charm will give you the ability to win your way.

Capricorn (Dec.22-Jan.19)- Make your own destiny. Concentrate on variety and change. Someone you admire will adore you even more.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb.18)- Think positive and you will be positive. The more positive you are, the more positive you will make others. I hope you like money because it's coming your way soon.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)- Keep your eye on Gemini. Don't get stuck in the past. Concentrate more on the present and future.

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)-Sometimes you are a little closed minded. Be kind and keep an open mind. Remember, people like to smile so make them!

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)- Your stack of money is getting low, so look for good deals. Try to look for a job or another job. There's one out there for you.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)- Keep your ears open for forgiveness. Someone close to you has done wrong in favor of your offense. Be sure to accept the apology, you might be regretful if you don't.

Cancer (June 21-July22)- Try to humor your love. Laughter will only bring smiles to your faces and bring you closer. Soon you will be reassured of love and value.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)- Do something to bring up your self esteem. Don't let you self-concept bring you down. Remember to respect yourself as well as others.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)- A good friend needs your help. You are a good communicator as well as listener. Give your friend some advice. They need it the most right now.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)-Stop procrastinating! Be sure to watch out for your grades. Do extra work and work ahead to keep up the grade point average.

Word Find!

S	G	O	S	U	B	S	R	H	N	P	P	S
E	O	Q	T	O	R	Z	N	E	N	L	E	I	R
C	L	N	U	E	C	P	W	V	Y	A	N	T	E
N	F	Z	D	S	S	C	U	S	P	Y	C	B	H
A	K	L	E	I	L	P	E	G	K	S	I	A	C
D	O	M	N	O	C	S	E	R	N	O	L	L	A
F	A	N	T	K	S	O	N	N	S	I	O	L	E
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CLASSES
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STUDENTS
DANCES
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CLUBS
STUDYING
PITBALL
GAMES
PENCIL
ERASER
PLAYS
SOCCER
TENNIS
GOLF

Do you have any unusual Thanksgiving traditions?

Danny Lester (12)- Every Thanksgiving we go to White Castle and get hamburgers. We go home, grind them up, and use them for stuffing in our turkey.

Cory Maher (12)- Instead of going to the supermarket to grab a big Butterball turkey, we raise our own turkey, tear all of the feathers off and wash it ourselves.

Jon Kribs (11)- Instead of the traditional "have a turkey on Thanksgiving," we go out to our pond and find a scrumptious Thanksgiving duck.

Julie Strassman (12)- Every year, my stepdad and my uncle break the wishbone. Who ever gets the losing end, has to put the remains of the turkey on his head, and do the traditional Thanksgiving turkey dance.